

25 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: IRA/State Study of Soviet Bloc Language and Area Training Program for Asia, Africa, and Latin America

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1. [REDACTED] I conferred on 21 April with Mr. Crichton (IRA) on the above study. [REDACTED] indicated the interest of CIA and other potential users in the study and observed that it would fill part of a critical intelligence gap.

2. Mr. Crichton estimated that the study would be more or less complete sometime in June. There followed a discussion of available sources. All of those present were fairly certain that no CIA materials bearing on the problem were available other than those to which IRA/State would ordinarily have access. It was agreed that any such materials which came to our attention would promptly be made available to Mr. Crichton.

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3. [REDACTED] and I were given copies of a proposed outline for the study. Examination of the detailed outline suggests that the study may be confined to institutions of higher learning. Presumably, this will cover engineering graduates working on Bloc projects in the underdeveloped countries. Such coverage seems to leave for later study the more pressing questions relating to the language and area training (if any) given the legion of technicians and semi-skilled workers who do not graduate from institutions of higher learning. From this group are selected the vast majority of Bloc personnel working on economic development projects in the underdeveloped countries. Nonetheless, even with such a limitation, the present study would cast welcome light on a dark area of our knowledge in this critical field.

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4. Both [REDACTED] and I expect to discuss this point with Mr. Crichton at an early opportunity. Further than this, we expect to review the completed study along with other interested members of the EIC Working Group concerned. At that time we expect to determine in what order of priority additional inquiries in this field ought to be conducted by those intelligence organizations with the capabilities for such a research effort.

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